

this costly, irresponsible, and regressive bill which provides half of its benefits to about 3,000 families annually while more than 10 million Americans are waiting for an increase in the minimum wage and tens of millions of seniors lack dependable prescription drug coverage. Furthermore, studies by economists have found that repealing the estate tax would reduce charitable donations by \$5 billion to \$6 billion per year. When this bill comes to my desk, I will veto it.

I am disappointed that the majority in the Senate placed such an emphasis on passing such a large and regressive tax cut, while voting against the priorities of millions of American families. The majority in the Senate voted against more targeted and fiscally responsible estate tax relief that would have eliminated estate taxes for two-thirds of families and the vast majority of small businesses and family farms at a fraction of the cost of repeal. The Senate also voted against measures to reduce poverty among senior citizens, provide for a voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit, make college more affordable, provide additional housing, help working families save for retirement, and assist families in assuring affordable health insurance and long-term care.

I urge the congressional leadership to work with me to relieve the burden of estate taxes for small businesses, family farms, and families in a fiscally responsible manner while strengthening Social Security and Medicare, investing in key priorities, and paying down the debt by 2012.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### ***July 10***

In the afternoon, the President traveled to State College, PA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Later, at the Penn Stater Hotel, the President met with Sherry Pope, wife of retired U.S. naval officer Edmond Pope, who has been detained by the Russian Federal Security Service in Moscow since April 4 on charges of espionage.

In the evening, the President traveled to Philadelphia, PA, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Leslie Beth Kramerich to be Assistant Secretary for Pension and Welfare Benefits at the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to appoint Rolland A. Schmitten as U.S. Commissioner of the International Whaling Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Sara Castro-Klaren to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Nigeria on August 25–27.

#### ***July 11***

In the morning, the President went to Camp David, MD.

In the afternoon, the President met separately with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel on the back porch of Aspen Cottage. He then attended a plenary session of the Middle East Peace Summit with Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Barak in the Conference Room of the Laurel Cabin.

Later, the President met separately with Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Barak in the Living Room of the Holly Cottage.

In the evening, the President met with Chairman Arafat in the President's office at the Laurel Cabin.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ronald W. Burkle to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint John Tull as a member of the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development.

**July 12**

In the morning, the President met with Prime Minister Barak at the Aspen Cottage.

In the evening, the President met with Chairman Arafat at the Laurel Cabin.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mark K. Shriver as a member of the President's Council on Mental Retardation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Guy R. McMinds as U.S. Commissioner of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission.

**July 13**

In the morning, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC. Later, he went to Camp David, MD.

In the evening, the President met with Israeli Minister of Internal Security Shlomo Ben Ami on the back porch of the Aspen Cottage. Later, he had separate bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat.

The President announced his intention to nominate Judith A. Winston to be Under Secretary of the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bonnie Prouty Castrey to be Chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced the appointment of James S. Gordon as Chair and the following individuals as members of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy: George M. Bernier, Jr.; George Thomas DeVries III; William R. Fair; Joseph J. Fins; Wayne B. Jonas; Charlotte Rose Kerr; Dean Ornish; Conchita M. Paz; Buford L. Rolin; Julia Scott; Thomas M. Chappell; and Effie Poy Yew Chow.

**July 14**

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Barak at the Aspen Cottage. Later, he met with Chairman Arafat at the Birch Cottage.

The President announced the nomination of John E. McLaughlin to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

The President announced his intention to appoint Maynard H. Jackson to the Fannie Mae Board of Directors.

The President announced his intention to appoint Larry D. Welch as a member of the Security Policy Advisory Board.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**


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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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**Submitted July 10**

Leslie Beth Kramerich,  
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Richard M. McGahey, resigned.

**Submitted July 13**

Bonnie Prouty Castrey,  
of California, to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of 5 years expiring July 1, 2005, vice Donald S. Wasserman, term expired.

Arthenia L. Joyner,  
of Florida, to be a member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council for a term of one year (new position).

John E. McLaughlin,  
of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, vice Gen. John A. Gordon.

Judith A. Winston,  
of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Education, vice Marshall S. Smith.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**


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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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